

As an elementary school teacher for 35 years, I know how impressionable young children are. They often believe that everything they see on television is real and true. Therefore, for Sinclair Broadcasting to force-feed this to their local stations is not only an abuse of the public airwaves and of their corporate power (see below), but also of the trust of innocent children. I call upon the FCC to reign in this Sinclair conglomerate- it's behaving like the "Octopus" written about by muckrakers a hundred years ago. When grossly biased "reporting" is trumpeted as "news" our nation has crossed the line of freedom of the press.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.